

Table of Contents

- ***Politically biased observation in Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics***
 - ***Shooting of Odesa civic activist prompts warnings of danger to Ukraine's national security***
 - ***Human Rights Without Frontiers calls upon President Poroshenko to pay the pensions of retired people in Eastern Ukraine***
 - ***Odessa : No parking for the « cults »***
 - ***Turkish secret services kidnappings in Odessa?***
 - ***The editor-in-chief of "Unsolved crimes" newspaper attacked in Odessa***
-

Politically biased observation in Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics

Executive summary

EPDE (13.11.2018) - <https://bit.ly/2JZ0Vxf> - As the holding of "general elections" in the internationally non-recognised Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and Lugansk People's Republic (LPR) ran counter to the Minsk agreements, the international community considered them as illegitimate and did not send any observers to monitor them.

Aiming to fill the void of legitimacy, the "authorities" of the DPR and LPR claimed to have invited 48 and 45 "international observers" respectively from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kongo, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Syria, Turkey, USA and Yemen, as well as from "Abkhazia", "Palestine" and "South Ossetia".

We have identified 38 "observers" in the case of the DPR and 43 – in the case of the LPR. Out of the identified individuals, around half of them were politicians and state officials. Other "observers" were predominantly businessmen, students, journalists, and far-right and far-left activists and conspiracy theorists. None of the observers were transparent about the methodology they employed for observing the election processes and, therefore, did not comply with the "Code of Conduct for international Election Observers" endorsed by all relevant international election observation organisations, including ODIHR/OSCE.

The overwhelming majority of non-Russian "international observers" have already been involved in various pro-Kremlin efforts that include, but are not limited to: (1) previous participation in politically biased and/or illegitimate electoral monitoring missions in Russia and elsewhere; (2) legitimisation and justification of Russia's actions directed at undermining Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; (3) criticism of the sanctions imposed on Russia in relation to its aggression towards Ukraine; (4) cooperation with the Russian state-controlled instruments of disinformation and propaganda (RT, Sputnik); (5) membership in pro-Kremlin movements, groups and organisations.

"International observers" were highly visible in the media space of the DPR and LPR: more than one-third of all news stories published on the voting day mentioned "international observers".

"International observers" were invited to the DPR and LPR in order to provide a sense of general legitimacy and normalcy to the "elections" in the eyes of the domestic and Russian audiences.

Aiming to provide legitimacy to the otherwise illegitimate "elections", the media of the DPR, LPR and Russia disinformed their audiences about the real international perception of the "general elections", as well as promoting the following five major narratives: (1) the "elections" did not run counter to the Minsk agreements, and, therefore, were legitimate; (2) the "elections" were characterised by a high turnout and active participation; (3) the "elections" took place in a calm and orderly manner; (4) the life in the DPR and LPR is safe and peaceful; and (5) the international community should recognise the "elections", as well as independence and sovereignty of the DPR and LPR.

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Shooting of Odesa civic activist prompts warnings of danger to Ukraine's national security

By Halya Coynash

KHPG (24.09.2018) - <https://bit.ly/2zqFYrz> - There have been stark warnings about the situation in Odesa following a near fatal attack on Oleh Mykhailyk, an Odesa civic activist and leader of the People's Power ["Syla Lyudei"] party on 22 September. This is reportedly the fourteenth attack since the summer of 2017 on Odesa activists and journalists known both for their pro-Ukrainian position, and for their opposition to corruption by local officials.

It is no accident that activists and others commenting on the situation have referred to national, as well as public, security. Odesa was widely expected to fall in 2014, after parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, and the fact that Russia failed* to secure effective control then does not mean that it has given up trying.

Mykhailyk was shot at in a street near his home late in the evening on 22 September, with a bullet to the left side of his chest. It is possible that it hit an artery, as he lost a huge amount of blood and throughout the night his condition was too critical to even consider an operation to remove the bullet.

He regained consciousness on Sunday morning, and is reportedly in a stable, though very serious condition. It is unclear whether he is yet in a state to provide the police with any information about his assailant, but he is under guard in the hospital.

Mykhailyk's party, as the title suggests, is one firmly focused upon the role of civil society, and he himself is a well-known activist, who had been at a protest against illegal building development just that day. He has been vocal in criticizing the current Mayor of Odesa, Gennady Truchanov, a controversial politician who figures in the Paradise Papers in his capacity as member of a Ukrainian criminal gang in the 1990s. Mykhailyk was, apparently, planning to stand for election in the coming mayor elections.

Dumskaya reported on Sunday that an investigative team has been set up with this headed by somebody from the Odesa Regional Prosecutor's Office and also involving the SBU [security service].

While the investigators say that they are considering all possible motives, Mykhailyk's activist colleagues and the vast majority of people commenting on social media and in the press are assuming that Mykhailyk was targeted because of his activism and / or his fierce opposition to the Mayor and his people in power.

An open appeal, endorsed by many Odesa-based organizations and media, demands that President Petro Poroshenko call a meeting of the National Security and Defence Council to discuss the situation in Odesa and to create a single unit for investigating all attacks on journalists and civic activists. It also calls for the dismissal of the head of the Odesa Regional Police Dmytro Holovyn and his deputies; the head of the Odesa Regional Prosecutor's Office, Oleh Zhuchenko and his deputies and head of the Odesa Regional SBU Oleksandr Dovzhenko. With respect to the latter, the authors of the appeal also ask for a systematic investigation to be carried out into all manifestations of separatism in Odesa itself and in the Odesa oblast. They warn that the situation as it stands now could have extremely adverse consequences for public and national security, making the need for intervention urgent.

Tetyana Gerasimova, a local civic activist and leading member of the 2 May Group which investigated the tragic disturbances and fire on 2 May 2014, warns that the situation has gone beyond just intimidation. There is a "fight on for the billions which have already been stolen, but can still be retrieved. And the main issue remains on the agenda, namely control of Ukraine via its southern gate. Moreover the events of the last year, the attacks on the most active members of civil society beginning with that on Svitlana Podpalaya shows that the battle for Odesa has reached a critical point. It is now vital as never before for us to remain together and not be afraid".

Yuri Khrystensen in turn has given a worrying account of moves against civic activists over recent months. These include an orchestrated flood of complaints to Facebook against activists which is believed to have originated from an IT company linked with the Administration of Russian President Vladimir Putin. While attacks on civic activists and media may have been carried out by criminal elements, Khrystensen mentions pressure on their landlord to refuse to let his property to them, and believes that this was the work of the city authorities. Whether his explanation that Russia's Presidential Administration is playing a major role in this withstands scrutiny remains to be seen, however the combination of different and apparently unconnected forms of pressure does warrant attention.

Perhaps the bluntest warning came from Mustafa Nayyem, the Ukrainian MP who played a pivotal role in initiating the Maidan protests now known as the Revolution of Dignity. His text, circulated on Facebook and through his blog on Ukrainska Pravda, is entitled 'We are losing Odesa'. He writes that the attack on Mykhailyk reflects a dangerous trend, and notes that over the last year and a half there has effectively been an attack on an activist or journalist each month in Odesa, with 14 such attacks since the summer of 2017.

All the victims were united by two factors: "they have systematically and over many years spoken about corruption and violations by the city authorities, led by Gennady Trukhanov. Secondly, all of them hold pro-Ukrainian views."

Such statistics for attacks are worse than any other city in Ukraine, as the SBU, Prosecutor General's Office, Interior Ministry and National Police are well aware.

Nayyem directly blames the President's Administration for the lack of adequate response. The problem, he asserts, is that there are soon to be elections and "the local authorities in Odesa have been given "the green light" for any disturbances in exchange for votes at the presidential elections".

The situation is bordering on the absurd, he writes, when even the OSCE is reporting that local illegal and pro-Russian security structures have seized control in the city, and there remains no adequate response.

Nayyem also believes that the situation in Odesa and the Odesa oblast should be discussed both in parliament and at a session of the National Security Council.

"In 2014, it was a pure miracle that the oblast did not become yet another bastion of separatism, yet four years later it is 'polite guys' [a reference to the soldiers who seized Crimea in 2014] from the local authorities who are in front of our very eyes purging the city of all those who can show resistance and act. Without a systemic solution and discussion at national level of the problem now, in the next parliamentary and local elections we will lose the city once and for all. Not because it's not ours, but because our people are leave or fall silent".

With virtually none of the attacks, either in Odesa or elsewhere in the country, having been fully solved and the culprits brought to justice, the warning urgently needs to be heeded.

Human Rights Without Frontiers calls upon President Poroshenko to pay the pensions of retired people in Eastern Ukraine

A call for help from Dr Borys Kondorskii

HRWF (29.08.2018) – Human Rights Without Frontiers calls upon President Poroshenko to urgently pay the pensions of retired people living in Ukraine's 'uncontrolled territories'. The situation of retired people in general in the whole of Ukraine is absolutely dramatic. Professors, teachers, medical doctors and other Ukrainians who have worked for state institutions since the independence receive less than USD 100 per month...

A call for help and social justice from Dr Borys Kondorskii

Ukraine is currently the country where all human rights in all spheres of life are being violated. It especially concerns those citizens of Ukraine who reside in so-called uncontrolled territories. Getting your retirement pension is one of the fundamental human rights since a retiree has no other maintenance.

Already since 2014 receiving retirement pension by those citizens of Ukraine who reside in the territories of not recognized DPR and LPR has been subject to a whole series of requirements and conditions that were disrespectful to human dignity. One had to regularly draw up different documents, the requirements to which were constantly being changed. Degrading check-ups were a regular thing.

Since May 2018 Pension Fund of Ukraine has completely stopped paying retirement pensions to the majority of the citizens of Donbass. Kyiv Appeal Administrative Court

declared these actions illegal. Yet both Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Pension Fund have constantly been ignoring the decision of the court.

It is worth noting that the average retirement pension in Ukraine is equal to 100 US dollars. Ukraine has been in the state of permanent economic and political crisis during the whole period of its independence. During this time Ukraine's take in the world industrial production has reduced in more than 50 times. All of this results in the critical shortage of budget funds.

Who is Dr Borys Kondorskii?

Some time ago, our organization received a first email from Dr Kondorskii saying:

As an independent researcher I am working in the field of theoretical problems of history, politology, biological and language evolutions. More than 50 scientific papers of mine have been published for the recent 5 years. One can familiarize oneself with my articles on the website ResearchGate. I am currently developing a theory of a revolutionary period which has a high prognostic potential. I have predicted a real possibility of the occurrence of state formation on the basis of an idea of a "caliphate" as well as the nature of further development of the events in Syria already in May, 2014 at the XIIIth International Conference of Africanists in Moscow.

Before this May I received 100\$ of my retirement pension and 70\$ of social securities from local authorities. I lived off this money, worked on my articles and went to scientific conferences at my own expense. I participated in 4 conferences in person in 2017 as well as in 8 conferences in absence. Now Ukrainian government has deprived me of my retirement pension only on the ground of the fact that I reside in Donetsk, as well as thousands of other retirees who live on the territories of self-proclaimed DPR and LPR. This is a major violation of the constitution of the country, international human rights treaties which have been signed by Ukraine, as well as Minsk accords.

I believe that your organization, holding true to the ideals of human rights, should rise the question of lawlessness of the actions of Ukrainian government in terms of human rights violation.

Dr Borys Kondorskii

HRWF thinks that beyond his personal case, it is important to highlight the dramatic situation of all pensioners in Ukraine.

Odessa : No parking for the « cults »

By Massimo Introvigne

CESNUR (23.07.2018) - http://www.cesnur.org/2018/mi_odessa.htm - In June 2018, The Journal of CESNUR published [a special issue on the Applied Sciences Institute](#), an organization founded by Dr Oleg Maltsev and headquartered in Odessa, Ukraine. On July 13, 2018, it was involved in a bizarre incident, which deserves some attention.

The principles of the Applied Sciences Institute apply to a variety of fields, including the practice of law, and their network of organizations and companies include a law firm called Redut. Outside the law firm, there is an area that belongs to it. They believe they have a right to put there devices preventing persons not authorized by the law firm from parking, which they did. The City of Odessa thinks otherwise, and they asked the law firm to dismantle the devices.

They refused, and the following day they sent 20 municipal guards in camouflage plus 20 plainclothes agents to forcibly dismantle the devices, which employees of the law firm protested. Journalists of the "Unsolved Crimes" newspaper, which is located nearby and is also part of the larger Applied Sciences Institute organization, came to film the scene. The municipal guards used tear gas to disperse the protesters, and both the journalists and one attorney were beaten with rubber clubs. One journalist, according to his own account, was taken away in a Municipal Guard car, beaten again, and thrown away on the road.

The spokesperson of the Deputy Mayor of Odessa [issued a press release](#), where he justified the Municipal Guard's activities by claiming that the Guard was attacked with a gas pistol (which is denied by the Redut law firm) and that those beaten belonged to the "Maltsev Cult." This reference is crucial, as it shows that the disproportionate use of force in connection with a trivial administrative incident reflects the hostile attitude of the Municipal Guard and other Odessa authorities against groups designated as "cults."

This is somewhat surprising, considering that in Ukraine in general a critical attitude prevails against anti-cult activities in nearby Russia, and attacks on the Applied Sciences Institute originated from Russian anti-cultists such as Alexander Dvorkin, who has been declared persona non grata in Ukraine and prevented from entering the country.

See videos at http://www.cesnur.org/2018/mi_odessa.htm

Chronology of events July 12-13, 2018

July 12, 2018

Unsolved Crimes (23.07.2018) - At about 12.00 in a parking lot on the Nekrasova street #1: two employees of the Department of the Municipal Guard and one "Municipal Guard" car. About four people were in a camouflage type of clothing and three others in civilian clothing.

There was a dispute which lasted 15 minutes regarding the illegality of their actions for dismantling. Opinions differed. Attorney Panchenko said that she will call the police, let them sort things out and that there should not be any action taken before the arrival of the police.

Despite this, at about 12.15 - 12.30 pm the employees of the "Municipal Guard" tried to start dismantling constructions that belonged to a law company. Two security officers of the company tried to prevent them. "Municipal Guard" outnumbered them. The obstacle of the Law company was in the following: one person picked up a coil with a wire from an electric saw, which was connected to the power unit found in the car of the "Municipal Guard", and simply tried to put it aside. At this point he was attacked by 2 people from the "Municipal Guard", a fight ensued, Law Company employee was struck twice in the groin. While turning he touched one of the attackers with his elbow, as a result of which his cheekbone area was cut open.

The director of LC (Law Company) called the police several times, but no one came.

After the scuffle ended, the deputy chief of the MG (Municipal Guard) arrived, as well as 2 more cars with their employees. He refused to show his identity card and to give his name. He behaved defiantly and ordered to continue dismantling.

At around 13.00-14.00 the patrol police arrived. The police asked for the document on the basis of which the dismantling was being carried out. They were provided with a poorly made copy of some document which didn't have neither signatures nor stamps. The police began to demand the original document, but the others did not have it. The police told everyone to go to the Primorsky police station, but the MG staff who arrived refused to go and said that they will continue to dismantle. The police blocked them from doing so by placing their car along the parking lot of the LC, an investigative group was called.

Before the arrival of the operative-investigative group, those who arrived abruptly got into their cars and fled.

On the same day the LC filed a complaint to the police.

The journalists that were there on this day: Konstantin Slobodyanuk, editor-in-chief of the "Unsolved Crimes" newspaper; Stas Dombrovsky, journalist of the "Kakogo" newspaper were phoned and informed by their acquaintances from the cafe opposite from LC parking lot about the incident; Darina Karuna, editor-in-chief of the "Obshestvennyi Priboi" newspaper - made the report the same evening and gave an editorial task to 3 journalists to visit the place the next day and interview the employees of the LC.

July 13, 2018

At around 10.00 am, LC lawyers Panchenko and Tarasenko, as well as lawyer of LC Kuzmenko were having coffee in a cafe opposite to the parking lot of LC "Redut" (which is located 5 meters from their office). There was a journalist Slobodyanuk. The journalist of "Obshestvennyi Priboi" Anatoly Poryadko was in the same cafe, speaking before the interview with an employee of LC Evgeniy Belousov.

At this point, about 15 people in civilian clothing came to the parking lot. The attorney Panchenko was surprised at this and started filming on her phone. After those who arrived realized that they were being videotaped, they divided into 2 groups and dispersed in different directions.

About 10-15 minutes later the car of the "Municipal Guard" came to the parking lot. One man came out of the car and started doing something in the trunk. Simultaneously, 2 journalists from the OP and 2 LC employees approached the parking lot and the journalists began interviewing LC employees on video cameras.

At that moment two more cars showed up, people came out in the uniform and rushed to the LC parking lot to dismantle the constructions that are the property of LC. Director of LC attorney Panchenko ran up and began demanding so that people introduce themselves, show documents, but no one reacted. A member of LC who saw several attackers used a pepper spray. Several people began beating him with clubs, they were beating him even when he was already sitting on the sidewalk and had his hands on his head. At the same time, the MG began to use tear gas and beat the journalist Miroslav Bekchiv with clubs. Bekchiv states that he was in the parking lot and saw people in uniform that were rushing at him, he was pushed in the back, there were about 10 attackers, he was frightened for his own life and for the life of the LC employees who were beaten up clubs, and in order to stop the people from being killed he sprayed gas cartridge. After that, he was beaten up, he was chased after in the parking lot and on the

street, as a result, three employees of the MG caught him, grabbed him by the throat, two men were holding his hands, and a third man sprayed the tear gas right into his face from a distance of less than a meter. After that, despite attorney Tarasenko trying to stop them, four men pushed him into the car, and took to the district department, he was beaten up on the way (in the car). Journalist Tkachenko was also beaten up because he was filming, he was beaten by several people, somebody tried to snatch his video camera from him and insulted him. From the force of impact, the journalist Tkachenko's one shoe flew out. The journalist Slobodyanyuk, who at the time of the attack was sitting with lawyers in a cafe, saw what was happening, turned on the video on his phone and approached the incident. He did nothing except tape things on his phone. He shouted that he was a journalist so that all participants could be heard, moreover, the day before these events, he personally showed his ID to the head of the MG which is on the video. To ensure that Slobodyanyuk was unable to record the faces of the attackers at a close range, he was sprayed with gas in his face, he was beaten with clubs and fell to the ground. At the moment when Slobodyanyuk was already lying on the ground and covered his head with his hands, one of the MG employees hit him with a club while he was on the ground.

All in all, there were about 40 people attacking. They were led by a local city official - Deputy Director of the Department of the Municipal Security of Odessa City Council - Savchenko Yuri Alexandrovich. This local official also prevented the attorney Tarasenko, who was trying to stop the violence against the journalist Bekchiv and also tried to stop people who pushed him into the car. Savchenko made her a footboard, then pushed her away from the journalist Bekchiv.

More videos about the incident:

- Kidnapping of the journalist Miroslav Bekchiv: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qX1iINDSeay0>
- The journalist Vitaly Tkachenko was beaten up by the employees of Municipal Guard: https://youtu.be/NgaObv_QYvo
- By blood or in a normal way. Working principle of Odessa "Municipal Guard": <https://youtu.be/3A9BVndSHC0>
- The journalist Vitalyi Tkachenko was beat up by Odessa City Council representatives: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZE_-wsk9t_Y
- The journalist Miroslav Bekchiv was attacked by tear gas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VL0ZCv4YKKw>
- The editor-in-chief of "Unsolved crimes" newspaper has been attacked: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdkEBD5cFo0>
- Interview with Ruslan Forostyak: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hmzt7e070Hs>
- Interview with the deputy of Odessa City Council - Vadim Tereshchuk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3XrcFAPxy0>
- The interview with a former representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office - Massimo Introvigne on the situation in Odessa: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIFHCgIOQ7k>

Turkish secret services kidnappings in Odessa?

Human Rights Without Frontiers urges the Ukrainian authorities to confirm or deny this human rights violation perpetrated on their territory

HRWF (18.07.2018) - *The well-known and reliable Odessablog has just released an article about two kidnapping cases allegedly perpetrated by the Turkish secret services under the title "Not such a Turkish Delight in Odessa" (17 July, <https://odessablog.wordpress.com>):*

"It is no secret that foreign agencies work in Odessa Oblast.

The most obvious that would come to mind is that of the Russian Federation, but as a reader moves closer to Europe then the Romanian SIE is active, as is Mossad, and of course Turkey across the Black Sea also has a great interest in Odessa too.

To be fair there are numerous agencies active in Odessa as a reader would expect from a city that is a transport hub on internationally recognised trading routes (as well as internationally recognised smuggling routes - be it people, guns, drugs and counterfeit).

Odessa is a destination, it is a hub and it is a source of legitimate and criminal trade. It is cosmopolitan and it is mercantile.

What self-respecting foreign agency with particular regional interests wouldn't be active in Odessa?

Most go about their work quietly - albeit perhaps not as invisibly as they might think.

However, it appears that Turkey recently made some rather obvious and perhaps illicit renditions of two of its citizens.

If true this would not be the first time Turkey (or other agencies - Mossad allegedly spirited away a Turk with Islamic links from Odessa train station some years ago) has tried and/or succeeded in renditioning their citizens from Odessa back to Turkey.

In 2008 several Kurds were either successfully renditioned or attempts were made by Turkey to "reclaim them" against their will.

The latest incidents allegedly occurred on 12th and 15th July 2018 - the first in Odessa and the second in Mykolaiv.

It is claimed that both individuals were FETO supporters (Güllist). That may or may not be the case, for rumours are rumours and who starts them and for what reason requires some thought.

Either way extrajudicial renditions are just that regardless.

On 12th July it is claimed that the Turkish Milli Istihbarat Teskilatı (MIT) abducted Turkish businessman Salikh Zeki Yigit from his restaurant in Odessa city centre, held him at the Turkish Consulate in Odessa overnight, and the following day spirited him back to Turkey (by plane to Istanbul and then on to Mersin).

The second individual was a Turkish blogger (married to, and father of Ukrainians) Yusuf Inan in Mykolaiv. Mr Inan was apparently subject to extradition proceedings, but it appears that the MIT could not wait.

Both men had residency status in Ukraine. Both were renditioned to Turkey during the last week if some very solid rumour be believed.

Whether a tacit blind eye was turned or whether the matter will be raised privately having drawn Ukrainian ire is speculative - particularly in light of recent Turkish statements thanking Ukraine for its "cooperation" regarding the return of "refugees".

What is not speculative at the time of writing is that there has thus far been no public statement from any Ukrainian institution or ministry - either to confirm or deny either incident.

Would a reader therefore draw inference that if these illegal renditions took place (and it appears that they have), in the absence of any official comment whatsoever, that Kyiv was aware?

The answer has to be - probably.

If so, and of course there is plausible deniability, it will be something of a human rights image problem at the very least in numerous private diplomatic conversations - albeit insufficient to cause any significant policy changes toward Ukraine (or Turkey). No doubt the Human Rights NGOs that read the blog (and there are certainly some in Brussels that do) will take note.

Whether there are any more Turks in Ukraine on the MIT rendition list - time will perhaps tell, and perhaps fairly soon."

Local and national Ukrainian authorities cannot keep silent about the allegation of such an egregious human rights violation perpetrated on their territory. If the accusation is confirmed, they should take a public position about this act committed by a foreign power on the Ukrainian soil.

The editor-in-chief of "Unsolved crimes" newspaper attacked in Odessa

See video at <http://zlochiny.com/en/k2/jr/item/407-the-editor-in-chief-of-unsolved-crimes-newspaper-has-been-attacked.html>



Журналистские расследования (13.07.2018) - On July 13, 2018 at about 10 AM. At this time, there was an attack on **Constantine Slobodyanyuk**, the editor-in-chief of the "Unsolved crimes" newspaper on Nekrasova street 1, where the day before there had been a conflict between representatives of the municipal guard and employees of the "Redut" law company. According to the informant from the network of the Department of Municipal Security, the representatives of the municipal guard were to return the next day and dismantle parking posts, which were illegal in their view.

Everything happened in about 10 minutes. Three cars belonging to the municipal guard arrived at Nekrasova street in the parking lot. All in all there were about 15 people who got out of the cars. All of them were dressed in a uniform with chevrons labeled "Municipal Guard". At the same time, from the direction of the main department of architecture and from the opposite side along Nekrasova street, two more groups of 10-12 people in civilian clothes began approaching the parking lot. Without showing any documents the representatives of the municipal enterprise "Municipal Guard" began dismantling the parking lot posts. At this time at the parking lot there were two of my colleagues from "Obshestvennyi Priboi" newspaper. They were interviewing employees of the "Redut" law company. As a matter of fact, within a few minutes the representatives of the municipal security began using special means in the form of tear gas. Afterwards, they began kicking the employees of the "Redut" law company right in front my eyes. At that moment I attempted to stop the illegal actions of persons whom I didn't know, having introduced myself as a journalist. After a few seconds, from two sides, the employees of the municipal enterprise "Municipal Guard" used tear gas against me, followed by several strikes with clubs on my head to the temple area; they threw me on the ground and inflicted several more strikes; by that time I didn't see anything and practically couldn't hear anything.

In response to this offense, a criminal investigation has been opened under Part 2 of Art. 345-1 (threat or violence against a journalist) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. It is also worth noting that during the conflict, there were two other journalists of "Obshestvennyi Priboi" newspaper - *Vitaly Tkachenko* and *Miroslav Bekchiv* - who were injured by the municipal authorities. One of them is in the hospital with a closed skull fracture, face burns and traces of strangulation. It should be reminded that the municipal enterprise "Municipal Protection" is under the immediate supervision of the director of the Department of Municipal Security - a retired police colonel Viktor

Kuznetsov. Wherein, superintending officer of the municipal enterprise "Municipal Protection" is another official from Odessa Andrei Kotlyar, who is the deputy head of city chairman Gennadyi Trukhanov.
